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# MASTERTON NEWS

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I was watching a game at the World Cup the other day and thought about how it contrasts with my experience of football. There was this glamorous stadium with talented players playing exceptional football. Last month in Peterhead I watched as the ball flew around in an erratic manner in a howling gale totally freezing. As the darkness descended around 3.30pm and the quality of football deteriorated even further, I thought how much more I enjoyed the hardship and misery. There's clearly something not quite right about me.

## In the School

As you can imagine it's been a very busy time in the school. With Christmas just around the corner classes have been working on their performances, getting ready for the Christmas Fayre and continuing with their learning.

P.5/6 and P.6 have had 'Eats Rosyth' in, helping out in the class. They are a community led charity who grow and share food, help the environment and improve food education. They have brought in a lot of vegetables and have been helping with their enterprise. If you look at the planters around the school you will see some of the work they have been doing.



**GROW.  
EAT.  
SHARE.**



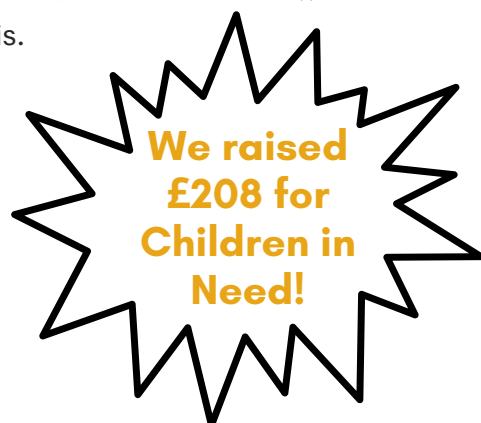
Beatbox, a musical group, have been in working with the P.4/5, P.5 and P.5/6 classes. They have been working on creating their own song(s) as well as recording them. Beatbox are funded by the Youth Music Initiative and we are very grateful for that.



A storyteller visited P4 to help pupils learn about the roles that animals play in traditional tales worldwide. After hearing a Native American story about a very lazy coyote who pushed his only friend to the brink of despair, the pupils then collaboratively created and told a story about local wildlife, including the importance of allowing hibernating animals to remain undisturbed over the course of the winter. P4's story involved a sleepy hedgehog being bothered by vans, foxes and noisy humans before a mystical chicken from outer space saved the day and ensured that the hedgehog got the rest she needed! They then retold the story in the form of totem poles, used by some Native American peoples to permanently record traditional stories. They had a great time, and loved the visit.

During November we had a 'Children in Need' day where we did our 'Walk and Talk' mile. Pupils paired up in classes, usually an older class with a younger class, and walked around the school together. In total we raised £208 for Children in Need. My thanks to everyone who donated to Children in Need.

We also raised £543 for Save the Children with our Christmas jumper day. Thanks to everyone who donated towards this.



Dunfermline High School had an Open Evening for P.7 pupils intending to go there after the summer. As my youngest is in P.7 I was in attendance as well. The evening ran very smoothly and went well. Apologies to any pupils from Masterton who had to be in my group. It's not really something you want, your headteacher walking around the school with you.

We've managed to play a few football matches this term. It's been good to get things moving again and other schools involved. We've played St Leonards, Duloch (Twice), Canmore, Pitreavie and Commercial so far and performed well. In the New Year I'm hoping to get a few more games organised. There's a lot of potential in this team and I'm convinced greater things are to come. I'm also hoping to organise a few games against other girls' teams as we have a group of incredibly enthusiastic and keen girls.

## Parents Evening

It was great to have the Parents Evening back in the school last month. It was 3 years to the week since this had last happened so it felt like another step on the path to normality. Obviously, we had had interviews online but there is something about actually speaking to someone face to face which is important. The new system for booking appointments worked well which was good. I managed to speak to a number of people on the different nights which was really good.

## Parent Portal

Thanks to all parents who signed up to the Parent Portal. We currently have 99% of parents on the system. We were informed that this is the highest percentage of any school in Scotland. Well done to the parents at Masterton for achieving such a high level. Well done to Mrs Stevenson and Mrs Brown for working so hard to achieve this. In addition we have 100% of parents signed up to lpay (school lunch/trip etc payment system) which is a phenomenal achievement on all parts.

## Achievements

I'm always interested in pupils' achievements outside of school and I was recently made aware of Ella Gracie's achievements. Ella (P.7a) has had what can only be described as a fantastic year in her Acrobatic Gymnastics. In January she travelled to Stoke on Trent to compete at the biggest Acrobatic Gymnastics event of the year. There she and her partner won a Silver Medal coming second to the 2021 British Champions. Unfortunately, Ella broke three bones in her foot in June so couldn't try out for the UK team. However, when her foot recovered she tried out for the Scottish team and was selected to go to Budapest. They won the final, winning a Gold Medal for Scotland. There have been other successes since then with further wins at the Scottish Championships and the biggest win of the year in the British Championships. I should also probably mention that her partner is Scarlett Haldane another ex-Masterton pupil.

When I found all this out I was amazed that this had all happened without me knowing anything about it. Thinking about it I do believe that we have lost something since Covid. I used to have a good idea about what our pupils were achieving. I'll need to have a good think about how we record and recognise things like this as they are so important.



## Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre went very well. It was buzzing the whole time and very well attended. We were glad that it was split into 2 halves as there was no way that we could have accommodated everyone in the hall at the same time. There's a lot of people to thank for making this work. In no particular order:

**FROMPS** - All the members who turned up and helped out. In particular Mrs Lynne Loudon who worked ceaselessly to make the Fayre a success.

**All staff** - Who ran a stall or worked with the pupils to create Christmas activities or items for a stall.

**The pupils** - For helping at stalls, helping set up the hall and creating in their class.

**Tesco** - Who sent some things to sell, as well as two staff to help out (thank you Mandy Raine, Tesco Community Officer).

**Dunfermline Athletic** - For donating a signed football and free kit to give away.

**The parents** - For donating items for the Tombola and raffles. And spending money.

**We are very pleased to announce that the final total of money raised for the Christmas Fayre was £1911.02!**

**We raised £1911.02  
for the Christmas  
Fayre!**

**Thank  
you!**

## Dates

Just a quick reminder of the dates of events taking place over Christmas.

<b>Monday 12th December</b>	<b>P.1 Nativity</b>	<b>Afternoon and Evening</b>
<b>Wednesday 14th December</b>	<b>Christmas Lunch</b>	
<b>Thursday 15th December</b>	<b>Christmas Performances</b>	<b>P.2 - P.4 pupils, 9.30am P.5 - P.7 pupils, 11.15am</b>
<b>Wednesday 21st December</b>	<b>M&amp;M Productions Pantomime - Robin Hood</b>	<b>All Classes, 1.30pm</b>

## Class Parties

<b>Friday 16th December</b>	<b>P.3a and P.3b</b>	<b>1.30 - 3.00pm</b>
<b>Monday 19th December</b>	<b>P.4/5 and P.5</b>	<b>1.30 - 3.00pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 20th December</b>	<b>P.3/4 and P.4 P.5/6 and P.6 P.2a and P.2b</b>	<b>11.00am - 12.30pm 1.30 - 3.00pm 1.30 - 3.00pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 21st December</b>	<b>P.1a, P.1b and P.1/2 P.7a and P.7b</b>	<b>9.00 - 10.40am 11.00am - 12.30pm</b>



*Happy Holidays*

## And finally.....

As 2022 comes to an end, I would like to thank everyone for their help and support this year. It seems a long time ago when, back in January, half the school and staff were absent with Covid compared to today when things are normal. It's been a strange journey this year but we got there in the end.

I'd like to wish everyone a good Christmas and New Year whatever you are doing or wherever you are going.

The school re-opens on Thursday 5th January at 9 am.

Regards

S Humphries  
Headmaster

